

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~In a~~ A method ~~of for the~~ chromatographic analysis of a protein sample solution, ~~the improvement consisting in~~ comprising the step of adding a Poloxamer to ~~the a solution of the~~ protein sample solution and the step of conducting a chromatographic analysis of the protein sample solution.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~In a~~ A method ~~of for the~~ chromatographic analysis of a protein comprising including the step of preparing a diluted protein sample solution ~~for by~~ bringing the protein concentration to a level acceptable for the chromatographic system used, ~~the improvement consisting in~~ adding a Poloxamer to the diluted protein sample solution and then conducting a chromatographic analysis of the diluted protein sample solution.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved~~ method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the chromatographic analysis is the quantitative determination of protein content.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved~~ method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the chromatographic analysis is the assessment of protein purity.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved~~ method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the chromatography is size-exclusion chromatography (SEC) or reverse-phase HPLC (RP-HPLC).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved~~ method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the protein on which analysis is carried out is a dimeric glycoprotein.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved method of any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the protein on which analysis is carried out is FSH.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved method of any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the protein on which analysis is carried out is an interferon.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved method of any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the protein on which analysis is carried out is Interferon beta-1a.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved method of any of the preceding~~ claims claim 1, wherein the Poloxamer is Pluronic F68 (Poloxamer 188).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved method of claim 10~~, wherein Pluronic F68 is employed at a concentration of 100 µg/ml in ultra-pure water in the protein sample solution.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~improved method of claim 10~~ wherein, Pluronic F68 is employed at a concentration of 0.1% in sodium acetate buffer at pH 3.8 in the protein sample solution.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for the chromatographic analysis of the purity and/or quantity of a protein in a sample, comprising ~~a step of chromatography on a sample containing~~ chromatographically analyzing the protein in a sample that contains a Poloxamer.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, further comprising a step of data manipulation to determine purity and/or quantity of the protein.